

Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, May 30, 1898, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. May 30th., 1898.
Twin Oaks. My dear Alec:

Mr. Lindsley proposed to Elsie Friday night and was refused. Elsie asked me not to say anything about it but as she has told Mamma and Grace I think you ought to know. He has written to her since asking for another interview which request also she has refused.

Nevertheless she likes him a great deal and I am horribly afraid that Mr. Lindsley may yet win her. It quite often happens that a girl's affection for a man dates from the time she refused him. Mr. Lindsley certainly is a stylish looking man and one of culture and brains. But I do not believe he is thoroughly high-minded, thoroughly good-hearted man and I am sure that she would not be happy with him. But she wants to see him again, she is very much excited, restless and dissatisfied and everything and every other man seems flat and stupid. I have therefore determined to send her away for a few days, where there is nothing to remind her of him. She will go with Charlie and Helen to New York and then to Auntie's to Utica and when she returns he will have left for the Philippines let us hope.

This was Decoration Day but for a wonder was very cool.

Elsie and I interviewed a lot of maids but found none to answer our purpose. There was one who evidently knew her business and had lived 9 years with her present employers, but she not only wanted \$25.00 a month and her washing but also my cast-off clothing as her perquisites and that I could not think of.

I wonder what people did in the days when pens were made of quills. This one of mine is an old rusty one I have picked up, mine being down stairs and the household asleep and I

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simply can't get my 2 ideas off it's point. I don't know that I have any anyhow. I am working on Papa's Mother now having got his father pretty well fixed but it is awfully slow work. But our material accumulates and is I think very valuable and interesting.

Well Goodnight . I will add something in the morning.

Goodnight here's the postman,

Ever yours,